

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 025983
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S/S-O: LRFLEISCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 025983

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 03499 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 31 JAN 78

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 03499

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FROM ATHERTON U.S. DEL NO. 32

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG IS
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL-JANUARY 31

1. EILTS AND I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL THIS MORNING FOR TWO HOURS. WHILE I EXPECT TO MEET WITH HIM AGAIN TOMORROW, AND WITH SADAT AS WELL, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL, SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL, FOR SAM LEWIS TO GIVE DAYAN THE FOLLOIING BRIEF REPORT ON TODAY'S MEETING. WE WILL BE SENDING THE DEPARTMENT A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING BY SEPTTEL.

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2. WHILE POINTING OUT THAT EGYPT REMAINS DISAPPOINTED BY WHAT IT SEES AS ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO RESPOND IN ADEQUATE MEASURE TO SADAT'S INITIATIVES, KAMEL MADE CLEAR THAT THE GOE VERY MUCH WANTS TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO REACH A SETTLEMENT BUT STRESSED IT MUST NOT REPEAT NOT BE PURELY BILATERAL EGYPT-ISRAEL. KAMEL INDICATED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE JORDAN AND PALESTINIANS, BUT HE MADE NO REPEAT NO MENTION OF SYRIA., IN PARTICULAR, KAMEL MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPT WANTS TO CONTINUE WORK ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

3. I WENT OVER WITH KAMEL THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION STARTING FROM THE JANUARY 20 DRAFT WHICH THE SECRETARY GAVE TO SADAT AND WHICH I BROUGHT BACK FROM CAIRO WITH ME AND GAVE TO BEGIN ME AND DAYAN. I WENT DOWN THIS TEXT, AND CONVEYED TO KAMEL THE CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE ISRAELIS, GIVING HIM A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE RATIONALE BEHIND THESE CHANGES AND POINTING OUT THE AREAS IN WHICH DAYAN HAD SOUGHT TO BE HELPFUL BY INTRODUCING LANGUAGE AND MAKING SUGGESTIONS AIMED AT SMOOTHING THE PATH FOR THE EGYPTIANS, IN PARTICULAR NEW PARAGRAPH 3. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD AGREED TO MY SUGGESTION ON THE USE OF THE WORD "RIGHT" IN PARAGRAPH 4A, ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. KAMEL SAID AT FIRST GLANCE IT WAS CLEAR THERE WERE STILL IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES TO BE OVERCOME, BUT HE MADE NO SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT OR THE ISRAELI CHANGES. HE

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SAID HE WOULD STUDY IT AND, IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST, FINALLY INDICATED THAT IN PRINCIPLE HE WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO DISCUSSING IT WITH ME IN THE MEETING THAT WE WILL HAVE TOMORROW. ALTHOUGH I PRESSED HIM FOR EGYPTIANS' COMMENTS EVEN ON AN INFORMAL, NON-BINDING BASIS, I AM NOT SURE THAT KAMEL WILL BE PREPARED AT THAT TIME TO GIVE US DETAILED COMMENTS OR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT, SINCE EGYPTIANS CLEARLY PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER SADAT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON BEFORE PURSUING FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION. I ALSO URGED THAT EGYPTIANS BEGIN GIVING THOUGHT TO HOW NEGOTIATIONS CAN MOVE ON TO ITEMS B AND C OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA. KAMEL SAID THEY WOULD DO SO, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH IF ANYTHING WE GET FROM THEM ON THIS BEFORE SADAT'S VISIT.

5. AS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION, KAMEL SAID EGYPT WANTS TO CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE UNITED STATES. HE HOPED I WOULD CONTINUE MY ROLE BETWEEN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM. HE SAW NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUING IN THIS MANNER ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, WITH RESUMPTION OF THE FORMAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS COMING AFTER A DECLARATION HAS BEEN AGREED UPON. KAMEL MADE CLEAR THAT ONCE A DECLARATION IS ACHIEVED EGYPT WILL BE READY TO RESUME THE FORMAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, THOUGH SITE AND TIMING WILL HAVE TO BE AGREED UPON. HE PLACED CONSIDERABLE STRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF JORDAN JOINING NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS STAGE.

6. ALL IN ALL, I BELIEVE MEETING WITH KAMEL WAS A
USEFUL ONE. WHILE SERIOUS WORK ON THE DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES CAN PROBABLY OZT BE EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER THE
MEETING BETWEEN
PRESIDENTS CARTER AND SADAT, KAMEL
GAVE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE EAGER TO
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HAVE A DECLARATION AND WANT TO PURSUE EFFORTS ON IT (OF
COURSE THIS IS SOMETHING WE WILL HAVE TO CONFIRM WITH
SADAT). I FOUND KAMEL HIMSELF MORE RELAXED, CONFIDENT
AND FORTHCOMING THAN IN JERUSALEM. HIS AIDES HAD IN
ADVANCE OF THE MEETING PREPARED A STATEMENT FOR HIM TO
MAKE TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING OUR MEETING WHICH DECLARED
THAT THE ISRAELI POSITION THAT I HAD REPORTED TO HIM
WAS STILL "FAR FROM THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF PEACE."
AT MY SUGGESTION, AND REALLY WITHOUT URGING ON MY PART,
KAMEL AGREED TO STRIKE THIS LANGUAGE AND TO REPLACE IT
BY WORDS TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE IS "STILL CONSIDERABLE
WORK TO BE DONE."

7. I WILL SEND FURTHER REPORT FOR DAYAN TOMORROW
FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH KAMEL AND SADAT. LEWIS SHOULD
CAUTION DAYAN, AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS READING THIS
MESSAGE SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND, THAT THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY SO FAR SAYS SADAT WISHES TO KEEP MY MEETING
WITH HIM OUT OF THE PRESS. I AM ANSWERING ALL PRESS
INQUIRIES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING WITH SADAT
BY REFERRING THEM TO OUR EGYPTIAN HOSTS. WHILE I
SUSPECT THE MEETING UITH SADAT WILL IN THE END BE
ANNOUNCED, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NEITHER WE NOR THE
ISRAELIS SAY ANYTHING THAT WOULD GIVE IT AWAY BEFORE
EGYPTIANS DO SO.

8. ACTION REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE AMBASSADOR
LEWIS TO BRIEF DAYAN ON BASIS OF THIS MESSAGE. EILTS
UNQUOTE VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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